

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 11 and 16 have been amended. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently unallowed claims are in condition for allowance.

Objection to Claims 1-7

Claims 1-7 stand objected to. The Examiner states that the preamble is directed to latch and that the body of the claim is directed to a chassis, a latch and a subassembly. The Applicants' attorney respectfully disagrees. The bodies of claims 1-7 are directed to a first latch member and a second latch member; the references to the chassis and subassembly merely serve to provide context to and characterize the operability of the first and second latch members. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

Rejection of Claims 1-13 and 15-18 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) As Being Anticipated By Fletcher

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a first member operable to be attached to a chassis and defining a slot, the chassis having a first connector, and a second member operable to be attached to a sub assembly that is installable in the chassis and includes a second connector, the second member having a lip and operable to rotate about an axis to engage the slot with the lip, wherein engagement of the slot with the lip causes the second connector to move in a direction toward the first connector, the axis being substantially oriented along the direction.

For example, referring, *e.g.*, to FIGS. 1-4 and paragraphs 14-17 of the present application, a sub-assembly 1 is inserted into a chassis 2. A sub-assembly connector 3 is disposed at the rear of the sub-assembly 1 and a chassis connector 4 is attached to the inside of the back of the chassis 2. The sub-assembly 1 is inserted into the

chassis 2. A latch 5 is loosely attached to the front (side) of the sub-assembly 1. A latch bracket 10 with a slot is rigidly attached to the front of the chassis 2. A latch lip 6 is moved into the slot on the latch bracket 10 by a counter-clockwise rotation of the latch 5 about an axis normal to the front of the sub-assembly. The latch 5 starts a pre-loading process with the latch lip 6 in the latch slot at a slight angle. Once the latch lip 6 is in place, the latch 5 attempts to straighten itself. As the latch 5 straightens, the latch lip 6 pushes against the outside edge of the latch slot in the latch bracket 10. This causes a moment inward and, when seated, pre-loads the sub-assembly connector 3 and the chassis connector 4.

Fletcher, on the other hand, fails to teach the limitations recited in claim 1. Fletcher, at, *e.g.*, FIGS. 1-2 and 4-5 and col. 4, line 50 to col. 5, line 35, teaches a circuit board injector/ejector device 31 comprising a body 32 which is fixedly secured to a composite front plate 14 of a circuit board 11 having an edge connector 12 for engagement with a connector of a rack 1. A lever 33 (second member) is pivotally mounted on the body 32 about a horizontal pivotal axis 34, and, when pivoted, assists in moving the edge connector 12 toward the connector of rack 1. However, the axis 34 of rotation of the lever 33 of Fletcher is perpendicular to, not oriented along, the direction of movement of the edge connector 12.

Claims 8, 11 and 16

Claims 8, 11 and 16 are patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15 and 17-18

Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15 and 17-18 are patentable by virtue of their respective dependencies from claims 1, 8, 11 and 16.

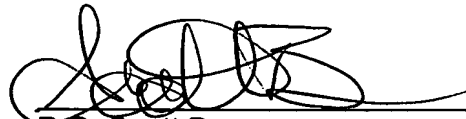
**Rejection of Claims 14 and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) As Being Unpatentable
Over Fletcher In View of Frank, Jr. ("Frank")**

Frank fails to supply the teachings missing from Fletcher, namely a first member operable to be attached to a chassis and defining a slot, the chassis having a first connector, and a second member operable to be attached to a sub assembly that is installable in the chassis and includes a second connector, the second member having a lip and operable to rotate about an axis to engage the slot with the lip, wherein engagement of the slot with the lip causes the second connector to move in a direction toward the first connector, the axis being substantially oriented along the direction. Accordingly, Fletcher and Frank, taken either each alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the limitations recited in claim 11. As such, claims 14 and 15 are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claim 11.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (425) 455-5575. **If the Examiner does not agree that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to arrange a discussion of the application prior to issuing an advisory action.**

Respectfully submitted,
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